

5. UVA LABELING AND TEST METHOD RECOMMENDATION

It may not be surprising that the following quote from a UVA workshop held in 1991 still holds true today:

"We do not yet know the importance of UVA with regard to photoaging...and...skin cancer...It would seem prudent, therefore, to encourage the development of sunscreens which absorb more or less uniformly throughout the UV spectrum²²"

It is for precisely this reason that the critical wavelength should be adopted as the single test to establish UVA protection of sunscreen products. A critical wavelength of greater than or equal to 370 nm would ensure sunscreen products broad protection against UV.

Equally if not more important is the means of communicating UVA efficacy. We recommend labeling for UVA efficacy be simple and a product is label with SPF and "broad-spectrum" or simply SPF.

²² Diffey, BL (1992) The need for sunscreens with broad spectrum protection. In Biological Responses to Ultraviolet A Radiation. Urbach F (ed.) A Symposium on UVA Radiation, San Antonio, June 1991 Valdenmar Publishing Co. Overland Park, KS, pp321-28.